COLVIN'S WEEKLY REGISTER.

NO. 4] WASHINGTON CITY, FEBRUARY 6, 1808. [VOL. 1.

FOREIGN MANNERS.—I beg the reader not to be alarmed at the title which I have given to this article. I do not intend to present him with a string of syllogisms to prove the prevalence of the overbearing influence of the court of St. Cloud in our public councils; nor to amuse him with a story of English guineas landed from the Statira. As for the first, sensible men laugh at the very notion of it, and simple ones wonder how they could be duped for a single instant by such a frivolous tale. The late news from Europe has put the seal of approbation upon the embargo act, and forced the political *Quixadas* (otherwise called *long-jaws*) of the nation to cease their waggery. On the score of the English guineas —I wish with all my heart his Britannic majesty would send a whole fleet loaded with them into the country: A little specie would do us no harm if it was put into general circulation; and as for the mischief of bribing and corrupting a few federal editors, if the thing could cleverly be done, I see no great injury that would accrue to the people. But I really must clear the British from the charge of such stupidity. There is certainly no opposition writer worth purchasing; for there is not one among them all who has any great credit with the people, or who does not possess just as much disposition to hunt down the administration without a bribe, as he would if he had one. Some persons, I know, have very seriously believed that English gold has the same effect upon federal Editors as Sterne's piece of money had upon the French coachman, who at sight of the silver spread his mouth into a grin of approbation and lashed his horses into a full trot. If this were the case, the mere hope of reward would answer quite as well as a distribution of the money; and the annunciation of the arrival of the guineas will have as great an effect as if they were proportioned among the gaping scribes. I beg to be understood as not believing a word of the intelligence. But if, in the face of my most obstinate infidelity the thing should be as represented, I hope that those who have the appropriation of the precious metal will not make a mistake like that which the facetious Peter Pindar tells us was committed by his Britannic majesty with the poor Salisbury Verger. They need not, indeed, give them even six-pence: There is no danger of their cooling down to any thing like moderation or politeness for the government: And if they were to get into a higher key, and play off "the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer" of their talents, they could produce no more effect than they have done, which is precisely such an one as the American government could wish and every good citizen would pray for; being neither more nor lesss than to bring out the virtue, and spirit, and talents of the nation to the support of public measures and to their own condemnation.

Nor am I about to divert the reader with those charming and laugh-exciting witticisms which do so much honor to the literary character of the paragraphists of the United States, who will amuse you to the extent of half a newspaper column with a con-

catenation of puns on the name of Mr. *Rose*, and an ingenious mimicry of general Turreau's incorrect English. Setting aside the great decorum of these pleasantries, so witty, so pretty; it furnishes one with a most animating prospect of the improvement of taste among us—*Away with despair!*—We may soon hope to vie with England in her best days, and put Swift, and Steele, and Pope and Addison, quite out of vogue; together with all the humorists of France, whose brilliancies will assuredly fade before the coruscations of the gentlemen who wield a "grey goose quill" so excellently well as to make us pass over the subject of their raillery to smile most significantly at themselves.

My purpose is a little different. I am about to state my impressions on a point which I consider far more alarming to the plain, honest, well meaning people of this country, than the vapid charge against the president on the supposition of his secreting dispatches, the *Rose*-wit of conundrum manufacturers, or the "*begar*" impertinently attributed to gen. Turreau. It is a topic which has not been duly considered; but one which certainly must before this time have occurred to men of reflection who have visited the seat of the general government.

It will be admitted on all hands that the genius of our government is essentially different from that of G. Britain. That it is so in theory no man will doubt: That it should be so in practice I hope no man will deny. The congress, in particular, the great republican feature of the constitution, is, beyond all question, the great conservative body of the public liberties. Its proceedings, whilst they are liberal, should never degenerate into anarchy, and whilst dignified, they ought carefully to guard against the haughtiness of aristocracy: Equally free from the tempestuousness of a French revolutionary assembly on the one hand, and on the other from the disgusting fastidiousness of an English parliament. I have no allusion to the *present* mode of conducting debate in the national legislature, generally: It is only the fear of future evil, from the tendency of a habit which one or two gentlemen have got into, and which there is great danger may become fashionable and hereafter prove extremely pernicious, that induces me to speak out.

The manners of the people of this country are strongly English. We have derived them from our forefathers. The danger, therefore is, that through these manners the principles of the British monarchy may creep in upon us. So long as they are confined to the articles of dress, cookery, furniture, and equipage, the danger is not so great: But when they approach the deliberative assembly of the nation, they assume a more alarming aspect and ought to be manfully opposed. There is more to be apprehended from the influence of British manners and forms to the freedom of this country, in truth, than from all the British gold in the hands and at the disposal of their ministry. I have often inquired, when I have heard an outcry against French influence, whence arose the dread of it? Every attempt towards the latter must come in an open, palpable shape: Whereas the former clothes itself in the soft, insinuating garb of our own language, the turn of our thoughts imbibed from English books, the very raiment which we wear, and the very utensils we use, imported from Great-Britain.

It would be invidious to state the name of an individual ; nor do I conceive it necessary. If the original figure cannot be recognized from the picture I draw, I may as well throw away my pencil ; for a painter that is obliged to write, *this is a man*, over his portrait, is but a common dauber : But there is one gentleman on the floor of the house of representatives, who has done infinite mischief, by resorting to the peculiar phrases of English orators in the house of commons : breaking by that means in upon the republican simplicity of congressional proceeding, and paving the way for the sacrifice of solid common sense, to the ridiculous cant of finical address. Mere forms and modes of speech, may in the eyes of some men, appear unimportant : Experience, however, teaches us that substance more than once has fallen the victim of formality.

I appeal to the understanding of intelligent men, whether the house of representatives at this time does not contain a member, studious of introducing into debate the most contemptible parliamentary expletives ? The gentleman I allude to is slender, and somewhat about the middle stature ; with a pale and inanimate countenance. You may observe him as he enters the representative hall, stiffly uncouth in his gait ; with all the consequential airs of an opposition leader. His dress, although not "costly as his purse can buy," yet is arranged with a certain sleek primness, indicative of the most delicate attention. He rises in his place with a formal singularity, and endeavors to assume that bend of beauty so much applauded in Corporal Trim when relating a story to my uncle Toby. His delivery, clear and distinct, bespeaks a language previously studied ; and occasional sentences proclaim an humble imitator of my old lord Chatham and the plagiarist of expressions filched, and conned, and adjusted for the purpose, from that sublime orator ; with a mixture of the vulgarisms of more modern English speakers. As Robespierre aped Mirabeau, so does this gentleman endeavor to follow the brilliant track of the elder William Pitt : But, although we now and then are spiced with a "peppercorn," and carefully reminded of the independent conduct of the noble Englishman, for the purpose, I presume, of applying the character to his follower, his imitator neither astonishes us by the grandeur of his conceptions, a varied enunciation, nor the lightning of a piercing eye. Lord Chatham was a volcano, thundering and pouring the burning lava of a deep, reflecting mind, on his opponents : The gentleman I am describing, has all the rumbling of Vesuvius, with its smoke : and after waiting a long time, in suspense for the threatened eruption that is to overwhelmn every thing in its way, we experience nothing from him but a disagreeable vapor. Sometimes he regales us with the phrase of "the gentleman in my eye," and endeavors to be the Sheridan of opposition : In this he is unhappy; for he ends where Sheridan began, and from the natural dignity of an independent country gentleman, sinks to the level of a mere actor I will not deny to him acuteness of intellect ; but his judgment is defective. His eager vanity has led him astray ; and whilst playing off the disagreeable formularies of his exotic prototypes, he appears ripe to enact the character of Charles Fox for his own benefit, by promoting the formation of a kind of coali-

tion ticket for a future administration. The repulsive influence of his manners, however, will operate, it is apprehended, to his own humiliation. All his efforts have not enabled him to surmount the irritability of an impetuous temper, nor to conciliate the affection of a single politician of distinction. The example of his imported eloquence, may nevertheless, find admirers; and introduce an evil not to be easily eradicated.

Nothing, certainly, can be more disagreeable to an American citizen than to find thus early among us, these little innovations in debate. If followed, they may grow upon us, until we find his lordship on the woolsack in the one house, and the simple rules of proceeding laid aside for the squeamishness of corrupt courtly language in the other; until aristocratical forms may prove so winning, so enticing, that losing sight of the principles of our excellent constitution, the representatives of the people might erect on its ruins a monstrous practical system which may insinuate its corruptions to the very core of our free institutions, and finally subvert the liberties of the republic. We have seen with what scorn fantastical individuals among us, when dressed in European fineries, have regarded the homespun dress of honest yeomen. We should beware of parliamentary trappings; least we come to despise the simplicity of those forms which are essential to our preservation; and by which, if adhered to, the nation may be led to true glory. Let us adorn our cities with fine buildings; manufactures, and arts; and our soil with agriculture; borrowing from abroad, if necessary, new inventions and ingenious mechanism: But let our political sentiments and actions remain pure and uncontaminated by the tinsel of foreign ornament.

Foreign News.—By arrivals at New-York, Norfolk, and Savannah, various articles of intelligence have come to hand from Europe, of considerable importance to the citizens of this country in sundry points of view. The London Gazette of November 28th contains an order dated "At the court of the Queen's Palace, the 25th of November, 1807," fixtng certain periods at which it shall be deemed that a reasonable time shall have elapsed for receiving information, at different places, of his majesty's order of council of Nov. 11th, already noticed in the Register, *(pages* 31 *and* 32.*)* This order, as well as the one to which it refers, will appear in this paper in good time and place. It appears by a paragraph under the London head (Nov. 28th) that the merchants of that city trading to America had taken the alarm on the first appearance of the order of Nov. 11th, and their committee were convened by a requisition signed by a few merchants, and addressed to Mr. Sansom, the chairman. The chair was taken in due form, and it was proposed that a deputation should be appointed to wait on ministers for the purpose of explaining the inconveniences and difficulties that would result to the merchants under the orders lately issued, and to pray for relief. Now there certainly could be no objection to such a reasonable proposition as this; a proposition which went merely to lay the complainis of the merchants at the feet of the ministry. But somehow or another, ministers had got wind of the intended convocation, and notwithstanding the evident sensibility of the merchants to their desperate situation as manifested by the

hasty convention of the committee, had sufficient address to counteract the intended supplication for more lenient measures. Whether or not the ministers were afraid that an example set in London might prove contagious, run like wild-fire through the country, and create an opposition too formidable for them to put down, or for the high influence of the crown to silence, so it was that after one hour's discussion among the merchants, the whole business was smothered by voting it down; a show of hands being called for by a gentleman, who remarked, "that ministers had already given every *necessary* attention to the subject, and had granted every *reasonable indulgence* to the American merchants; that he considered the measure resorted to *highly necessary* at the present crisis."

I have declared the way in which this meeting terminated, as having been produced by the secret interference of the ministers, because I do not believe it to be in human nature to bear in abject silence, in such a country as Great-Britain, the severe distress which the late British orders must necessarily occasion to the merchants in England trading to America, unless some overpowering influence were exercised upon them to produce the effect. I should, indeed, be ashamed for some of my countrymen if I thought otherwise. To see men, whose greatest interests are sacrificed by those orders, patiently bearing the evil without a murmur, and even applauding the measure which occasions their distress, forgetting their own sufferings for the supposed good of their country, and that under a monarchy too; whilst in the United States there could be found a solitary individual (and I am extremely sorry to say there have been more than one) exclaiming against the embargo, and denouncing the whole administration for the act, when that act is far more necessary to the United States than the British orders are to G. Britain; it is enough, I say, to make the tenderest vein about the heart of a lover of his country, ache for the degradation of those who want virtue enough nobly to support the republic in times like these. In the London meeting there could be found only one single person but what held up his hand against an application to ministers.——But we have men (and I thank God they are few and imbecile) who not only will not hold up their hands in support of the government; but who labor with their hands and raise their voices against it, as if the present dispute were a mere local question, or village broil, and not a subject of national independence, interest, and honor, in which every paltry consideration ought to be lost, and every man strive, one with another, who shall do most for the country in such a critical moment.

London reports, (of date November 20th) which are generally of little value in point of fact, give us the promise of a slight change in the British cabinet, and a new opposition leader. Lord Grey, is dead*, which makes way for lord Howick (under the title

* *He died on Saturday, the 14th of November, at his house, called Fallowden, near Alnwick, Northumberland, (England,) in the 79th year of his age. He was a Knight of the Bath, General of the third regiment of dragoons, and Governor of the Island of Guernsey. His lordship was in the battle of Minden; and was the only surviving officer who served under general Wolfe, at Quebeck, to whom he was aid-du-camp.*

of lord Grey) to the house of peers. Lord Howick, we are told, has been the head of the minority in the house of commons, so that his call to the chamber of lords will leave a vacancy to be supplied by an able leader. Sheridan is represented as having the first offer of the post; and in case of his refusal it is said that Lord Henry Petty or Mr. Whitbread will take the lead in the minority side of the house. This, as relates to opposition. The change in the cabinet will occur through the resignations of lord Castlereagh and the duke of Portland; in which case the marquis of Wellesley is to be premier. Whether these new arrangements are really about to take place, or are nothing more than mere newspaper speculations, is of no great importance to the people of this country. We have nothing more to expect from the marquis of Wellesley than from his predecessors.—The desertion of the cabinet by Portland and Castlereagh, may originate in a very different motive than the ostensible one: They may possibly consider themselves in no very pleasant situation, and escape from disgrace under cover of a fictitious malady. It is very certain that the time is at hand, when it will be a serious thing to be a member of the British cabinet. The present untoward situation of the world justifies the most terrifying apprehensions for England, and although no sound politician on this side of the Atlantic can wish to see her cast out from among the nations; yet if the awful crisis under which she labors should terminate unfavorably for her, she will have the misery to know that her ruin has been occasioned by her own counsels.

Russia, who has inclined to the side of France ever since the treaty of Tilsit, has at last come out with the following declaration against England. This state paper is extremely interesting. However the Russian emperor may be under the control of French influence, there is not a doubt but what Alexander has solid grounds for enmity against Great Britain. In this declaration we find them recapitulated; We find that the Russian monarch has not been insensible to the self-interested proceedings of the British ministry; to the policy of men who held out the idea of co-operation with their allies, yet left them to bear the battle alone in the most critical part of the war; and engaged in distant expeditions, unconnected with the general interests. There may, perhaps, be found for the British ministry some apology in the necessity of the case. They foresaw that to send a British army to contend with the numerous and veteran legions of Bonaparte, either on the shores of the Mediterranean or those of the Baltic, was only to sacrifice them, and to lose their own places in the government. Something was to be done to gratify the commercial and the navy interests, of Great Britain. Hence the invasion of the Spanish possessions in South America, which presented a wide field for the avarice of individuals, and a large theatre for mercantile speculation. No ministry can exist in Great Britain that does not gratify the wishes of the naval and commercial classes of subjects: They "rule Britannia" with absolute power; and I venture to say that no war can prevail without their concurrence being secured; and that if a war is to take place with America, it will be from the overwhelming influence which the navy interest has in the councils of G. Britain; the officers of which, finding the ocean at present a barren de-

sert for their enterprize, may expect to reap personal advantages by hostilities with the United States. A ministry thus existing under the continual pressure of a powerful external influence, is the mere creature of expedients; and frequently exhibits an eccentricity of conduct which the most versatile democracy never exemplified. Proceeding, however, from whatever cause it might, the faithless conduct of the British ministry could not fail to mortify the emperor Alexander; who, in his declaration, not only complains of bad faith, but charges them with the basest treachery, in "annoying the maritime trade of his subjects" at the very moment he was fighting in their behalf. It will be seen, too, that he complains of the treatment of the Danes, a topic that has no doubt been artfully seized by Bonaparte, to rouse all continental Europe to hatred and opposition to Great Britain.

The most important feature in this whole state paper, is that part which relates to the renewal of the principles of the armed neutrality. Principles that involve the first interests of Russia and most of the powers in the North of Europe; the relinquishment of which has been as vexatious to Russian trade (principally consisting of naval stores. that are contraband of war,) as the execution of the various British orders, infractive of the laws of nations, has been ruinous to that of America. If Russia adheres to this determination, the period cannot be very distant when the doctrine of *free bottoms* must prevail in its widest latitude.

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RUSSIAN DECLARATION.

The higher the value in which the emperor held the amity of his Britannic majesty, the keener the regret he must feel at the complete alienation of that monarch.

Twice has the emperor taken up arms in a cause in which the interests of England were most immediately concerned; but he has solicited to no purpose her co-operation to produce the accomplishment of her own objects. He did not require she should unite her forces with his; he was anxious only she would make a diversion in their favor. He was astonished that in the furtherance of her own cause she herself would make no exertion. On the contrary she looked on a cold spectatrix of the sanguinary theatre of the war, which she herself had kindled, and sent a part of her troops to attack Buenos Ayres. Another portion of her army, which seemed to be destined to make a diversion in Italy, finally withdrew from Sicily, where it was assembled. Hopes were entertained that they had taken that step in order to throw themselves on the Neapolitan coast; but it was soon understood that they were employed in taking possession of Egypt.

But what sensibly hurt the feelings of his imperial majesty was to see *in violation of the faith and express stipulations of treaties, England annoying the maritime trade of his subjects; and at what period was this proceeding adopted? When the blood of the Russians was flowing in the glorious battles, which accumulated and directed against the armies of his imperial majesty, the whole of the military of his majesty the emperor of the French, with whom England was, and still is at war!*

When the two emperors made peace, his majesty, notwithstanding his just causes of displeasure at the conduct of England, did not however refrain from endeavoring to ren-

der her services. The emperor stipulated in that very treaty that he should interpose his mediation between England and France; and he accordingly made an offer of that mediation to the king of Great Britain, apprising him that it was with a view to obtain honorable conditions for him. But the British ministry, adhering no doubt to the plan that was to dissolve and break off all the ties between Russia and England, rejected that mediation.

The peace between Russia and France was likely to bring about a general peace, but it was at this moment that England suddenly awoke from that apparent lethargy in which she had slumbered; but it was only to throw into the north fresh firebrands, which were to rekindle, and have actually kindled, the flames of war which she was not desirous to see extinguished.

Her fleets, her troops appeared on the Danish coast, to execute an act of violence of which history, so fruitful in example, records no parallel.

A power distinguished for its peaceful and moderate conduct, and for a long and unexpected course of wise neutrality, and who sustained, amidst surrounding monarchies, a kind of moral dignity, finds itself treated as if it was engaged in secret plots and was meditating the downfall of England: while the whole of these imputations were only meant to justify the sudden and entire spoliations of that power.

The emperor, wounded in his dignity, wounded in the affection he feels for his people, wounded in his engagements with the courts of the north, by this act of violence committed in the Baltic, a close sea, the tranquility of which has so long depended on the court of St. James, and is reciprocally guaranteed by both powers, did not dissemble his resentment against England, and warned her that he should not remain indifferent to such a proceeding.

His majesty did not foresee, that while England, having successfully employed her forces, was on the point of seizing on her prey, she would offer a fresh outrage to Denmark, in which his majesty was to bear a part.

New propositions, still more insidious than those made at first, were made to Denmark, which aimed at binding down to England that power thus subjugated, degraded, and applauding, as it were, every thing that had happened.

Still less did the emperor foresee that it would be proposed to him to guarantee that submission, and to promise that that act of violence should not be attended with any mischievous consequences to England.

The English ambassador seems to have imagined that he might venture to propose to the minister of the Emperor, that his imperial majesty should undertake the apology and defence of a proceeding which his majesty had so openly condemned. To this step on the part of the Cabinet of St. James, his majesty has thought proper to pay only that attention which it deserves, and has deemed it high time to set limits to his moderation.

The prince royal of Denmark, endowed with a character full of nobleness and energy, and having been blessed by Providence with a soul as elevated as his high rank, had apprized the emperor, that, justly enraged against what had recently happened at Copenhagen, he had not ratified the convention respecting it, and that he considered it as null and void.

That prince has just now acquainted his majesty with the new propositions that have been made to him, and which are of a nature rather to provoke his resistance than to appease his resentment, for they tend to stamp on his actions the seal of degradation, the impression of which they never will exhibit.

The emperor, struck with the confidence which the prince royal placed in him, having moreover considered his own grounds of dissatisfaction with England, having attended to his engagements with the powers of the North, engagements entered into by the empress Catharine, and by his late imperial majesty, both of glorious memory, has resolved upon fulfilling them.

His imperial majesty breaks off all communications with England: He recalls his embassy from that court, and will not allow any ambassador from her to continue at his court. There shall henceforward exist no relations between the two countries.

The emperor declares that he abrogates every act hitherto concluded between Great-Britain and Russia, and particularly the convention concluded in 1801. *He proclaims anew the principles of the armed neutrality, that monument of the wisdom of the empress Catharine, and binds himself never to recede from that system.*

He calls upon England to give complete satisfaction to his subjects with respect to all the just claims they may set up, of ships and merchandize seized and detained, contrary to the express tenor of the treaties concluded during his own reign.

The emperor gives warning, that nothing shall be re-established between Russia and England until the latter shall have given satisfaction to Denmark.

The emperor expects, that his Britannic majesty, instead of permitting his ministers to scatter fresh seeds of war, in compliance only with his own feelings, will be induced to conclude a peace with his majesty the emperor of the French, which would be extending, in a manner to the whole world, the inestimable blessings of peace.

When the emperor shall be satisfied upon all these points and especially upon that of a peace between France and England, without which no part of Europe can expect to enjoy any real tranquility, his imperial majesty will then willingly return to the relations of amity with Great-Britain, which in the state of just resentment which the emperor should feel, he has maintained, perhaps, too long.

Done at St. Petersburgh, the 26th October, 1807.

On the receipt of this declaration in London, the subjoined notification was addressed by Mr. Canning to the lord mayor:

Stanhope Street, Dec. 2.

My Lord,

I have the honor to inform your lordship that dispatches have been this morning received from his majesty's ambassador at the court of St. Petersburgh, by which it appears, that the emperor of Russia, having published a declaration, in which his imperial majesty declares his intention to break off all communication with England; to recall his minister from this court; and not to permit the continuance of a British mission at that of St. Petersburgh, his majesty's ambassador has demanded his passport, and is now on his way home. I have lost no time in communicating this intelligence to your lordship, in

order that it may be made as public as possible, without delay.

I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) GEO. CANNING.

To the right honorable Lord Mayor.

Portugal, it would seem, has incurred the heavy displeasure of France, who is about to take an exemplary vengeance upon her for her partiality to Great Britain. An order was issued at Lisbon on the first of November for the detention of all English subjects and the confiscation of British property. The British embassy was to return home in the Raven sloop of war. Five Russian line of battle ships arrived at Lisbon on the 9th of Nov. Sir Sidney Smith had arrived off the same port with a British squadron, and another of equal force was expected to follow him. The old story is revived of the determination of the prince regent to embark for the Brazils, as soon as the French enter his kingdom. Such are the leading items of intelligence lately received. They furnish fresh proofs of the increasing calamities of Europe. We are also informed that the British forces have evacuated Egypt, (the Turks having given up all their prisoners,) and arrived at Messina, in the island of Sicily, on the 18th of October last. It may likewise be concluded that the English ministry have entirely failed in their attempts to negociate the Ottomans into a favorable disposition, as Sir Arthur Paget, late envoy to the Sublime Porte, arrived at Gibraltar on the 20th of Nov. in the Thetis frigate of 38 guns, capt. Gage. Austria has likewise become a party against England; and rumors prevailed that the French troops were marching night and day from Italy for Dalmatia, Bonaparte being determined to seize upon the Turkish empire: In which scheme it is supposed Russia and Austria are concerned.

In this situation of things every friend to peace must wish, as there seems no probability of matters being mended till the affairs of the crowned heads of Europe have got to their utmost pitch, that they may arrive at the *ne plus ultra* of their operations as speedily as possible.

DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES.—The ship Rufus, captain Homer, in attempting to put to sea from Savannah on the 12th ult. was fired at by the revenue cutter Thomas Jefferson, Nicholas Newell, commander, and one man, named Michael Kollock, was thereby killed The ship's foremast was wounded by one four-pound shot, the starboard fore-topsail sheet shot away, and she had thirteen shot in her hull. This was occasioned by the refusal of capt. Homer to heave to on the firing of a signal gun from the cutter; and the belief of captain Newell that the Rufus was going to sea in violation of the provisions of the embargo. The brig Adventure, captain Laguel, which sailed from Charleston on the 17th ult. was detained on the following morning by the revenue cutter, captain M'Neil, and sent into port. A British armed schooner anchored in Hampton Roads on the morning of the 21st ult. from Bermuda, supposed with dispatches from Sir J. B. Warren, (arrived at Barbadoes) to Mr. Rose. She was expected to proceed immediately for Annapolis. The legislature of Georgia, at their last session, appropriated 150,000 dollars for the purchase of arms, and directed the state-house and scite at Louisville, to be reserved for a public arsenal. Dispatches from Mr. Pinkney, American minister at London, are said to have been received at New-York for the government of the U. States, and forwarded for this city by mail: They

probably relate to the late British orders in council, which were officially communicated to congress by the president on the 3d inst. The dispatches left London on the 17th of November.

NEUTRAL TRADE.—It is my intention to commence (perhaps next week) the publication of the French blockading decree of Nov. 21, 1806, and subsequent British orders of council, relative to neutral trade, the better to furnish the public with the means of judging, at one view, of the causes which have led to the present state of our foreign relations, and, in reality, have been the grounds of the existing embargo. I know not upon what principles some violent party men act, or whether they have any leading principles at all: But surely every man who has a single spark of patriotism about him, must now acknowledge that our executive has acted most wisely. Among much intelligence received from Europe, corroborating the propriety of securing in time the seamen, ships, and merchandize, of the United Sates, the following, bearing an official stamp, conveys the most impressive facts:

HAMBURG, Nov. 4, 1807.

At the request of the merchants here, dealing with the United States, I have issued the annexed circular instructions to the masters of such of our ships as may be bound to this city, and have also sent over to Heligoland, an agent, who will remain there for some months, in order to communicate such further information as I find it expedient to convey to our countrymen passing that island. You, Sir, will make such use of these circumstances as the interest of our commerce may point out to your known zeal and discretion.

I am very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

J. M. FORBES.

W. Lyman, Esq. consul of the U. S. of America, &c. London.

AMERICAN CONSULATE,

HAMBURG, Nov. 4, 1807.

To masters of American ships bound to Hamburgh.

In the present unprecedented crisis, such great and almost daily changes take place, and the measures of the belligerents affecting commerce are put into such immediate operation, that it is impossible for the most prudent, with the best intentions, to avoid the injuries which, on every side, lay in wait for fair neutral trade.

It is therefore by no means my intention to assume any control in the destination of your ships, but merely to state such facts as it is important you should know. In this measure my own opinion has been fortified by those of the most respectable merchants here in connection with my country, expressed to me in their written request.

The French Custom House officers, or *Douaniers*, without any official intimation to the Foreign Agents here, have some time since in virtue of an Imperial Decree, applied the commercial regulations and laws of France to the trade of this city, and without any exceptions, require certificates of origin, signed by the French Consul at the place of shipment, for all articles attempted to be introduced here. In addition to the inconveniences which the prompt and unexpected execution of this measure presented, within a few days, a new order of the French Em-

peror has interdicted in the most rigid manner, the navigation of the Elbe and Weser, to all ships, whether going or coming—and in consequence of it the American ship Julius Henry, coming from Baltimore, has been seized, the cargo has been sequestered, the ship has been liberated, but without any freight, and must remain under an embargo, of which the term cannot be foreseen. Under this state of things, it must occur to every one that it cannot promote the interests confided to you to enter either of these rivers. Having stated thus much, I can only leave you to follow the dictates of your own prudence, assuring you that I shall endeavor to send you new advices by the 1st of December, or sooner, if any favorable change takes place.

J. M. FORBES,
Consul of the U. S. of America.

List of articles permitted to be imported into Hamburgh, with certificate of origin, signed by the French consul, at the place of shipment:

Timber, masts, iron, copper, hemp, sail cloth or raven's duck, flax, cordage, pitch, tar, wheat, rye, barley, oats, oatmeal, pease, beans, rice, flour, cheese, butter, wine, brandy, tallow, candles, salt, pot ash, flaxseed, madder, turnip seed, linseed oil, hemp oil, whale and other fish oils, fish glue, mats, horse hair, hog's bristles, saltpetre, yellow wax, bed feathers, caviar, and honey. All other articles are, for the present, totally prohibited.

DESERTERS.—It will be at once recollected without the trouble of entering into particulars, that the present administration was much abused by certain party-writers, for not delivering up to the British, when demanded, those deserters, for the recovery of whom the attack on the Chesapeake was made by the frigate Leopard. It will also be remembered, that those deserters claimed to be American citizens, and as such demanded the protection of their government; that the administration entered into a strict inquiry as to the justice of their claim for its interference in their behalf; and expressed its willingness, in case they were ascertained to be impostors, to render every satisfaction proper in the case to the English government. It will not be forgotten, either, that much odium was attempted to be thrown upon administration for supporting the pretensions of those men, in the first instance, on their own declarations; and fictitious instances were cited, wherein British officers had promptly surrendered American deserters on the first demand for them. As a conclusive reply to all these charges and insinuations, I offer the following documents. They exhibit a case directly under the eye of the lords of the admiralty, sanctioned by their official mandate. Four men, who had regularly entered on board an American ship of war deserted in a British port; two of them claimed protection from an English impress officer; they were demanded in a formal manner; reference was made to the lords commissioners of the British admiralty; and inquiry was by them directed to be held, not whether they had deserted, but *whether they were British subjects?* The inquiry was entered upon; and without a particle of testimony other than the mere statements of the two men; and without other voucher save the solitary opinion of the inquiring officer, the men were declared to be British subjects, and retained. Such are the

indisputable facts. Let the American people compare the two cases, which are precisely similar, judge of the rectitude of conduct that marked the proceedings of administration; and say whether there was any colorable pretext whatever, *on British doctrine itself*, for the attack upon the Chesapeake.

[COPY.]

United States' ship Wasp, December 2d, 1807, *New York.*

The Honorable R. SMITH;

SIR—In compliance with yours of the 25th of Nov. I have the honor to acquaint you with the circumstances relative to the deserters from the U. S. ship Wasp, under my command. On the 29th of July last, when watering at East Cowes, four men effected their escape from the officer in charge of the party. Every measure was taken for their apprehension, but nothing could be heard of them through the island. On the day subsequent, as going to Portsmouth through Ryde, I was informed that John Bond and Thomas Jones, two of the deserters, were at that moment in the possession of the officer charged with the impress service at the latter place.

Having occasion to wait on rear-admiral Coffin the same day, I made a personal application for the within named then subject to his order — He informed me that he would immediately make arrangement for their delivery on board the Wasp; but seeing him a few hours after, he regretted that they being taken from Ryde on board the Royal William, the then guard ship at Spithead, precluded the possibility of delivering them up without the concurrence of the lords of the admiralty; and that immediate communication should be made them on the subject; and the day but one following he would furnish me with their reply.

On the 31st weighed for sea, and as passing through Spithead I sent lieut. Henry to require of the admiral a reply to my former application, when the accompanying communication, which I have the honor to forward you, was received by him.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Most respectfully,
Your most ob't serv't,
(Signed) JOHN SMITH.

[COPY.]

Royal William, at Spithead,
July 31st, 1807.

SIR—In consequence of your application on the subject of the two men, who had deserted from the U. S. sloop under your command, and who declare themselves to be British subjects, I lost no time in requesting the directions of the lords commissioners of the admiralty thereon; and am in return commanded by their lordships "to make immediate enquiry respecting the truth of the assertion made by the deserters, that they are British subjects, and to inform you that I am ready to transmit any representation that you may be disposed to make of their being American citizens."

I am, Sir,
Your most ob't, humble serv't,
(Signed) ISAAC COFFIN,
Rear admiral, commanding at Spithead, in the absence of admiral Montagu.

JOHN SMITH, ESQ. *commander of the U. States' sloop of war Wasp.*

[COPY.]

Royal William, at Spithead,
31st of July, 1807.

SIR—Having, agreeably to the directions of the lords commissioners of the admiralty caused the deserters

from the U. S sloop of war Wasp under your command, to be strictly examined and interrogated by capt. the honorable C. Boyle, of his majesty's ship Royal William, I herewith inclose you a copy of his report for your information.

I am, Sir,

Your most ob't humble serv't,

(Signed) ISAAC COFFIN,

Rear admiral, &c.

JOHN SMITH, ESQ. *commander of the U. S. sloop of war Wasp.*

[COPY.]

Royal William, Spithead,

31st of July, 1807.

John Bonsor
Tho's Jones } SIR—In obedience to your order of this day's date, to call before me and strictly examine as to the truth of the men named in the margin, being British subjects who have left the U. S. sloop of war Wasp, I beg leave to inform you that after closely interrogating those men, I firmly believe them to be British subjects, seeing no reason whatsoever to doubt their assertions, which are as follow.

John Bonsor states that he was born at Retford, in Nottinghamshire, that he has a mother now living there who keeps the paper mills, is 55 years of age, and was baptized in the church of West Retford, is 5 feet 9 inches and 3-4 in stature, of a fresh complexion, left England after being paid off in the Triton frigate at the expiration of last war, since which time he has resided in and near New York until his entry on board the U. S. sloop Wasp, in or about April last, when he received four months advance at twelve dollars per month, the dollar of value in currency eight shillings, having received also some slops during the time he has been on board; that when sent on shore with a watering party at Cowes, he left that place, went to Ryde, and called on the officer of the rendezvous there to protect him as a British subject.

Thomas Jones states that he was born in Bristol, his father's name Edward, his mother's Mary: He does not know when he was baptized, as he was very young when he left Bristol. He quitted Liverpool in the year 1801 in the General Kepple privateer brig, which vessel was captured by the Medea Spanish frigate and carried to Buenos Ayres, where he remained a prisoner nine months, then entered himself on board the Oliver Elsworth, a ship belonging to New-York, and has sailed in American vessels from that period until his entry on board the Wasp in April last. He then received neither bounty nor advance, as he could not procure bail for making his appearance on board when required, (the ship at that time not being ready to receive men.) Previous to his going out in the General Kepple he had been nine years in Newfoundland, working in the employ of John Butler, of Burien, who was owner of three fishing boats. He is 34 years of age, 5 feet 7 1-2 inches in stature, of a fresh complexion with a scar on his right thumb, marked with ink on both arms, having our Saviour on the cross on the right, a mermaid with several other marks, on the left. He left the Wasp on the same duty that John Bonsor did, proceeded to Ryde and claimed the protection of the rendezvous officer there. He was also supplied with slops during his servitude on board the Wasp. These men further state that John Henley and John Faulknor, calling themselves British subjects, left the Wasp on the same day they did.

I am, Sir, your ob't servant,

(Signed) C. BOYLE.

ISAAC COFFIN, *rear admiral, &c.*

THE CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT —*(continued from page 47.)*—I presented the public with a concise sketch of Mr. Madison's political life in my last number. The incidents place his character in an interesting point of view, and afford ample assurance for the future.

Some of those who have dealt rather uncandidly with respect to the late convention, relinquishing their ground of objection to the *mode* of nomination, have undertaken to question the propriety of the proceeding on the point of *numbers*; stating that out of 151 republican members in the two houses of Congress, only 89 attended the convention; and that of course, there were 62 republican members absent. This calculation allows the federalists in the house of representatives to be 22, and in the senate 6. I will not object to the estimate: But admit it in its full extent. And supposing all the 151 republican members *had* attended, Mr. Madison having 83 votes. (the number actually given to him,) would still have had 15 votes of a majority of the whole.

But it does not follow, that those who did not meet in convention, were hostile to Mr. Madison. Those who refused the invitation, and returned to Gen. Bradley the fiercest denials, did so on the score of hostility to the *method* of nomination. The letters of Messrs. Edwin Gray and Mathew Lyon [I speak with *tenderness* of the latter gentleman] will confirm the assertion. It is possible, therefore, that some of those who were absent have no objection to Mr. Madison, but may highly approve of him. Allowance should likewise be made for those who were not in the city at the time, and for those who were sick. These observations are meant for candid men, and not for burning zealots.

It was their own choice that the absentees did not attend; for they were duly and respectfully notified. They acted, no doubt, from the dictates of their own judgment, for which no man ought to condemn them.—I presume the gentlemen who did attend, acted on a conviction of the propriety of the measure; and they should be equally free from censure. He must be a bigot, indeed, who condemns the free exercise of opinions when they are honestly expressed. The notice for the meeting was general; the time of assemblage notorious; the proceedings at large made public. Where, then, is the offence? One ingenious gentleman* has found a curious one, truly, from the constitution of the United States, which precludes a member of Congress from being an *Elector!* It might be *high treason* to accuse a *royal animal* of ignorance: But it is certainly very unlike knowledge of the English tongue to construe a *recommendation* into an *election*. Or has he improved upon Don Quixote? and, with an eye to his own safety, instead of converting wind mills into giants, by the force of his imagination given a fantastical construction to a plain word, that he might have the reputation of *murdering* it.

On the 21st of January [ult.] the members of the Virginia legislature, friendly to the support of Mr. Madison for President, convened at the Bell Tavern in Richmond, to the number of 120. Mr. Robert Taylor, speaker of the senate, presided. The meeting then proceeded to nominate their electoral ticket, which was accordingly done for each district. Another meeting, it is said, was held at the capitol in Richmond, at which

* *Domine Lee.*

Gen. Hungerford, of Westmoreland county, was appointed chairman, and Mr. T. Hansford, secretary. On a division, it was found that 57 were in favor of Mr. Munroe, and 10 for Mr. Madison. So far, therefore, as the opinion of the members of the Assembly of Virginia is expressive of the sense of the people, Mr. Madison is, decidedly, the choice of that commonwealth.

The meeting at the Richmond capitol proceeded to resolve, that James Monroe, of Virginia, be supported for the office of president of the U. States. On the 23d they met again at the capitol pursuant to their adjournment on the 21st, and fixed upon proper characters for electors, with a view to the success of their candidate. A standing corresponding committee of five, residents of Richmond, was appointed, and a committee of five nominated for each county, to further their object.

EMBARGO—*(continued from page 6.)*—I have been perusing this week two or three columns of strictures which originally appeared in the London prints in favor of and against the late British orders. Those who have attended closely to the language and spirit of those prohibitory regulations will have perceived that they will produce with regard to France precisely the same effect as the embargo act will. Some of the English writers, those who are opposed to the ministry, consider the orders as wanton; calculated to yield very little benefit to Great-Britain, but which would irritate America, at the very time when America ought to be conciliated. This opinion is entirely correct; but with regard to that point of the topic which I mean to dwell on, it has no particular bearing; and therefore I pass it over for the present to come at the reasoning of the ministerial writers, who defend the measures of their government.

Those who oppose the policy of the embargo, admit that they would have no objection to it if it were not the offspring of French influence. Taking them at their word, I must believe they will applaud the act when it is made plain to them that it will be highly injurious to France. The object of the British orders is to cut off all trade with the French empire and its allies by neutrals; and to prevent neutrals from being the carriers for France and the powers in connection with her, from one to another of their ports. The permission to trade to France and her friends through English ports, although degrading to us in its most liberal sense, is a mere nullity; for no vessel that has touched in England can go to any other port in Europe under French influence. The British orders and the embargo act, therefore, have precisely the same operation with regard to France. Let us now see what the ministerial supporters in England expect will be the effect on their enemy by their own regulations. A writer in the London Morning Post says, speaking of the general blockade which the orders proclaim, "Such a measure must, in a short time, reduce the continent of Europe to a state of unexampled privation and distress." "It will, in its consequences, prove the keenest shaft that has yet been aimed at the blood-stained throne of the usurping tyrant."

I regret that room does not permit me to pursue the subject further this week. Want of space, likewise, precludes a continuation of Military Sketches, and several other interesting articles.

Published in F street.—Price, $5 per annum, in advance.